70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

City of Barrie

Final

Active Transportation and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 7, 2023 | **5:30 PM** | **Sir Robert Barrie Room**

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by the Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee on September 20, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Councillor, A.M. Kungl at 5:33 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 9 -
Councillor A.M. Kungl
Councillor B. Hamilton
J. Bourne
N. Flinn
L. Hoffarth
D. McKeown - Nature Barrie
J. Northcote
S. Schwartz - Living Green
E. vanWesenbeeck

Absent: 3 -
K. MacLeod - SMDHU
W. Steimle
D. Waters

STAFF:
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard
Manager of Solid Waste Operations, C. Marchant
Senior Manager of Operations, Roads, Stormwater Fleet and Technical, C. Morton
Senior Project Manager - Transportation Planning, B. Gratrix.

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee met and discussed the following:

SECTION "A"

SIDEWALK NETWORK - PATHWAY AND CATWALK MAINTENANCE

Craig Morton, Senior Manager of Operations, Roads, Stormwater and Fleet provided a presentation concerning the City of Barrie walkways.

Mr. Morton discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- Council's policy related to walkway winter maintenance;
- The City's walkway inventory;
- Walkway access and challenges with winter maintenance services;
- Photographs illustrating examples of walkway obstacles;
- The resources required to maintain all street-to-street walkways during the winter;
- A chart illustrating preliminary works costs associated with all street-to-street walkways;
- A summary of additional costs to be investigated related to walkway access;
- The operational resources required for winter maintenance;
- A chart illustrating a total cost summary for maintenance of all street-to-street walkways;
- Snow-clearing challenges;
- Photographs illustrating examples of walkways and snow clearing challenges; and
- The spring cleanup and summer maintenance.

Members of Committee asked a number of questions of Mr. Morton and received responses.

The Committee discussed potential opportunities to prioritize walkways located in school zone areas for winter maintenance, and the addition of this item to their work plan.

REFERRED MOTION 23-G-180 - LANDFILL BIKE DIVERSION PILOT PROGRAM

Nicholas Flinn declared a potential pecuniary interest on the foregoing matter as he is a volunteer member of the Firebird Community Cycle. He did not participate or vote on the matter. He remained in the Sir Robert Barrie Room.

Councillor, B. Hamilton provided an overview of the referral motion 23-G-180 concerning the Landfill Bike Diversion Pilot Program.

Chris Marchant, Manager of Solid Waste Operations provided a historical background of the Landfill Bike Diversion Pilot Program and using this as an opportunity to embrace a circular economy. Mr. Marchant described the intent of the program, to divert bicycles from the landfill, and repurposed by Firebird Community Cycle which is a non-profit organization for use by the community.

The Committee asked a number of questions of Mr. Marchant and received responses.

The Committee discussed their interest in a sustainable community, and they agreed that the recommendation concerning the Landfill Bike Diversion Pilot Program should indicate non-profit organizations, and not be restricted to bicycles. The Committee felt that there may be opportunities for non-profit organizations to repurpose other items from the landfill, without impacting revenue for the municipality.

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

23-G-180 REFERRED BY GENERAL COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 16, 2023 - LANDFILL BIKE DIVERSION PILOT PROGRAM

That staff in the Waste Management and Environmental Sustainability Department be directed to apply the learnings from the Landfill Bike Diversion Pilot Program and formalize a program to which non-profit organizations in the City of Barrie can enter into a relationship with the City to divert items, including but not limited to bicycles, as long as the items do not create landfill revenue loss, as determined by City staff.

Nicholas Flinn declared a potential pecuniary interest in the foregoing matter as he is a volunteer member of the Firebird Community Cycle. He did not participate or vote on the matter. He remained in the Sir Robert Barrie Room.

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 9/20/2023.

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee met and discussed the following:

SECTION "C"

COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee discussed adding winter walkway maintenance to their work plan, and that further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

BIKE THE NIGHT EVENT- 2024 CONSIDERATIONS

Steve Schwartz of Living Green provided an update concerning Bike the Night. He advised that unfortunately, Living Green will be unable to host the event in 2023.

The Committee discussed the potential for a 2024 Bike the Night event. The Committee suggested looking for sponsorship or partnership opportunities to assist with hosting the event.

Councillor Kungl discussed the next steps for the event. She advised that will meet with City staff and representatives of Living Green to discuss the Recreation and Sports Grant. Councillor Kungl noted that she would provide an update at the next Committee meeting.

Brett Gratrix advised that he will provide an update at the Committee's October meeting concerning "Becoming a Bike Friendly City".

BIRD FRIENDLY CITY UPDATE

Dorothy McKeown and Phyllis Tremblay, Co-Chairs of Nature Barrie's Bird Friendly Team provided a presentation concerning Barrie Bird Friendly City Certification.

Ms. McKeown discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- The City's support for becoming certified as Bird Friendly City;
- An introduction of the Barrie Bird Friendly team, members, member associations, and partners;
- The Nature Canada criteria for Bird Friendly City certification;
- The measures taken by the City related to threat reductions, habitat protection, restoration, and climate resiliency;
- The Community outreach and education;
- The next steps in the certification process;
- The steps the City can take to support the bird friendly city initiative include engaging the municipality to choose a bird to represent the City; and
- The Nature Barrie Bird Friendly City Team provided the following bird suggestions:
    - Barred Owl (BDOW);
    - Belted Kingfisher (BEKI);
    - Downy Woodpecker (DOWO);
    - Pileated Woodpecker (PIWO);
    - White-breasted Nuthatch (WBNU);
    - American Goldfinch (AMGO); and
    - Red-winged Blackbird (RWBL)

Members of the Committee asked questions of Ms. McKeown and received responses. Ms. McKeown mentioned that the next step is to conduct a bird poll and advertise on the City's website to engage the community. Councillor Kungl noted the Committee will be notified once the bird poll has been uploaded to the City's website.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION - STAFF UPDATES

There were no staff updates provided at the Committee meeting.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION - COMMITTEE EVENTS/UPDATES

There were no committee events/updates provided at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN